

## Definitions

Entailment: Proposition *A* **entails** proposition *B* if the truth of *A* guarantees the truth of *B*.

Implicature: Proposition *A* is an **implicature** of proposition *B* if *B* is inferred from *A* given the context, but *B* is not necessarily true.

Presupposition: A proposition *B* is a **presupposition** of proposition of *A* if proposition *B* is a precondition on the truth / falsity of *A*.

**Exercise**: Determine whether the propositions are an entailment, implicature, presupposition or have no relation to the utterance in question.

Context: Shannon is an aspiring musician. He has spent the past year and a half developing a record of a genre that he calls ‘experimental classical’, where he takes famous classical music pieces, inverts the order of the notes, plays every instrument on a synthesizer and reads magical realism poetry over it. He says it’s the future. He calls his good friend Skip over to have a private listening party, just before he thinks he is going to take the world by storm. He plays the title track 9 Mahler for Skip, and he asks for Skip’s opinion. Skip says the following:

UTTERANCE: There are a lot of instruments playing here, and I noticed how you really took time to emphasize the synthesizer in this track.

1. Skip didn’t like Shannon’s work.
2. Shannon took time to emphasize the synthesizer.
3. Shannon tried to collaborate with Zubin Mehta.
4. There was sound in the song.

Context: Shadow loves to eat. Cici (pronounced [sisi]) is Shadow’s friend and is inviting him over to her place for dinner for the first time. She knows he has a stomach on him, but she didn’t realize that it was basically bottomless. She makes him three full plates of spaghetti carbonara, which he devours, and they shared the plate of cornbread that he made for the dinner. By shared it, Shadow had seven of eight pieces. He then gets up and looks in her fridge for some more food, and she says the following:

UTTERANCE: I have fruit in the fridge, as well as ice cream in my mini-fridge if you are feeling dessert, but you must almost be full at this point, my friend.

1. There is food in the fridge.

2. Shadow actually doesn't like ice cream.
3. Cici has a mini-fridge.
4. Cici would like Shadow to stop eating.

### **Just for fun**

. Show that the following sentences are ambiguous by coming up with a context where one reading is true and the other is false.

1. Some student passed every exam.
2. You can't trespass.

. Given the context, is the sentence in question below true, false or can it be both?

Context: There is a certain man in a brown hat whom Ralph has glimpsed several times under questionable circumstances on which we need not enter here; suffice it to say that Ralph suspects he is a spy. Also there is a grey-haired man, vaguely known to Ralph as rather a pillar of the community, whom Ralph is not aware of having seen except once at the beach. Now Ralph does not know it, but the men are one and the same. Ralph knows the man seen on the beach by name, as Bernard J. Orcutt.

UTTERANCE: Ralph believes Mr. Orcutt is a spy.